



EASTERN WASHINGTON COUNTY RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

RTAC CHAIR-TOM HIRSCHI RTAC CHAIR-ARTHUR LEBARON PLANNING MANAGER-CURT HUTCHINGS

MINUTES

Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)

LaVerkin City Hall
435 N Main Street, LaVerkin

July 26, 2012, 1:30 pm

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Mike Vercimak
Mr. Derek Imlay
Mr. Rick Torgerson
Mr. Todd Edwards

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Arthur LeBaron
Mayor Alan Roberts
Mr. Daren Cottam
Mr. Dana Meier

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Myron Lee
Ms. Angela Rohr
Ms. Anita Lowe
Mr. Brandon Anderson
Mr. Rick Snyder
Ms. Annette Densley
Ms. Cynthia Hinton
Ms. Sheryl Lee

REPRESENTING:

Hurricane City
LaVerkin City
Utah Dept of Transportation
Washington County

REPRESENTING:

Hurricane City
Leeds Town
Toquerville City
Utah Dept of Transportation

REPRESENTING:

Five County Assoc of Governments
Leeds City Council Member
Lowe Family
UDOT, Hurricane Office
Sunrise Engineering
Leeds Coalition for Responsible Land Use
Citizen of Leeds Town
Citizen of Leeds Town

I. **CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM DECLARATION**

Mr. Todd Edwards, Vice-Chair, presided over the meeting. He welcomed all present and declared there was a quorum. The meeting began at 1:30 pm.



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II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MAY 24, 2012

A Motion was made by Mr. Derek Imlay, seconded by Mr. Mike Vercimak, to approve the Minutes of the May 24, 2012 Rural Transportation Advisory Committee meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. RPO-UDOT DELIVERABLES REVIEW

Mr. Myron Lee from the Transportation Planning Organization of the Five County Association of Governments (Five County AOG), presented this topic in the absence of Mr. Curt Hutchings.

A. **Fourth Year**

Mr. Lee provided copies of the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which outlines the deliverables expected to be completed by the Eastern Washington County Rural Planning Organization (EWC RPO) during its first five years. The fourth year was completed June 30, 2012 and the RPO is now in its fifth year.

Deliverable #1 for Year Four was to produce an access management agreement and an access management plan to be adopted into city ordinances in each city/town. According to Mr. Lee those documents are completed.

Deliverable #2 was to develop a build-out needs plan which will now be completed during the fifth year.

Deliverable #3 has been eliminated because the area has not been designated as non-attainment for ozone. A review of air quality will be undertaken the summer of 2013 and the results will determine any necessary action.

Deliverable #4 was to develop a prioritized project list to submit to UDOT for their consideration for the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). That task was successfully completed and the STIP is out for review before its finalization. Prioritization of projects for submission to UDOT for the upcoming year needs to be completed by December 2012.

Deliverable #5 is to develop a financial plan for the EWC RPO without UDOT funding. Appeals have been made to the Utah legislature to consider changing the wording of Senate Bill 8 to allow areas outside of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to request the use of Council of Government (COG) Corridor

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Preservation Funds. The EWCRPO would then apply to the COG for funding as part of the COG'S planning support function. There is also the option of appealing to UDOT for additional, extended financial support.

Deliverable #6 is to decide if the RPO wants to develop toward becoming its own MPO or to consider joining the existing Dixie MPO. Mr. Lee is the Transportation Planner responsible to manage the Dixie MPO and was able to share quite a bit of information on this subject.

Every ten years, after the census, the Federal Highway Administration (the FHA) produces a map indicating the urbanizing clusters adjacent to MPO's. The RPO members need to consider if they want to wait until reaching a population level of 50,000 and create their own MPO, or if the EWCRPO would prefer to join with the Dixie MPO.

The last deliverable for Year Four, is to provide a project prioritization list to the Washington County COG. This last year, COG funding was used to purchase property along SR-9 in preparation for SR-9 widening. The priority list will be updated in November 2012.

Mr. Edwards asked if the COG priority lists will be produced and presented by the individual cities and towns of the County, as before, or if the municipalities that are part of the RPO and MPO will produce lists through those organizations. Mr. Lee said that it could be either way, but encouraged the use of the RPO and MPO groups. No discussion was held on the subject.

Mr. Lee suggested that the cities/towns bring their project suggestions to the RTAC in September and to the RTEC in October. That way a list could be approved by the RPO by the January COG meeting.

Mr. Edwards pointed out that the projects on the COG list are not actually prioritized, but any project requesting COG funding must at least be on the list.

B. Fifth Year

Two of the items for the fifth year were already discussed: one, there is the usual prioritized projects for submission to UDOT for possible inclusion on the STIP; and two, the future of the RPO as an organization. When this future has been determined, then a Comprehensive Management Plan must be produced and distributed.

Also, air quality has been moved from Year Four to Year Five.



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A visitor inquired about sellers who do not want to sell their property, but because their property is planned as part of a future transportation project, it has lost its real estate value. Mr. Lee gave two examples of sellers and how the sales were negotiated. Mr. Lee also clarified that the COG funds cannot be used in a case of eminent domain. Mr. Edwards gave an example of purchasing a property before it is immediately needed, but leasing it back until it is needed.

IV. RPO CORRIDOR STUDY UPDATE

The Corridor Feasibility Study is a simple and basic study of potential use of a few roads if they were built and what the potential use of the roads would be (cost/benefit analysis). There is a kick-off meeting in early August to determine exact deliverables and scheduling with the RTAC members and Horrocks Engineers. In answer to questions from the public, Mr. Lee clarified that the kick-off meeting is not a public meeting.

V. SAFETY PROJECTS RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Discussion

Mr. Nathan Merrill from UDOT gave an update on safety projects to prioritize for submittal to UDOT for STIP consideration. Mr. Merrill noted that the list now included possible funding sources and comments. Some of the projects are colored to indicate that those projects are already underway or scheduled.

Most of the projects came from the Eastern Washington County Transportation Study (EWCTS) done by UDOT. The last ones on the list were added by RTAC members. These include the need to keep the children in the area safe as they travel to school. There will no longer be school bus service for kids from LaVerkin. Children from the west side of SR-9 have to cross the highway in order to use the bridge sidewalk. Then they have to cross back over the highway again to get to school. Safe Sidewalks program might be able to provide some funding.

Mr. Merrill finished reviewing the list and possible finance sources. The colored projects were to be removed.

B. Recommendation Vote

A Motion was made by Mr. Derek Imlay, seconded by Mr. Mike Vercimak, to recommend the Safety Project List to the Rural Transportation Executive Council for their consideration, approval and submission to the Utah Department of Transportation. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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VI. **CAPACITY PROJECTS**

A. Discussion

Mr. Rick Torgerson from the Utah Department of Transportation Region 4 Office presented on the process of evaluating transportation capacity projects. Capacity projects are funded by programmatic funds.

Mr. Torgerson introduced himself and proceeded with a very detailed and well-articulated presentation on UDOT funding sources, particularly those applied to capacity projects.

The attached powerpoint presentation illustrates the main points of the presentation. This is the same presentation given to the State Transportation Commission this past April to update them.

B. Vote on Recommendations on 09-27-12

Specific capacity projects need to be discussed and voted on at the next RTAC meeting scheduled for September 27, 2012.

Mr. Edwards thanked Mr. Torgerson, and Mr. Torgerson offered to share more of the presentation, but focused on capacity information as per the request Five County staff.

VII. **EWC RPO AND FUTURE VISION**

Mr. Lee noted that this subject is not time sensitive and could to be postponed until a future meeting.

- A. Zion Corridor – RTEC request for RTAC consideration
- B. RTPO'S

VIII. **OTHER/FUTURE TOPICS**

- A. Remaining Project Prioritizations discussed next RTAC meeting.
- B. COG prioritizations need to be included at next RTAC meeting.
- C. EWC RPO AND Future Vision to be discussed at future meeting.
- D. Next RTAC meeting 09-27-12, Toquerville
- E. RTEC vote on Safety Projects, 08-23-12, LaVerkin

IX. **ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned.